



## Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact [support@jstor.org](mailto:support@jstor.org).

## RECENT LIBRARY LAWS

Library extension often finds its fullest justification, its most emphatic recognition as well as the most adequate record of its development, in the various state and local enactments which furnish a framework for its organization and the appropriations for its conduct. These laws are the seals of the people's approval of a new social institution, the mile stones of its advance, so many cumulative and progressive votes of confidence.

A number of important new acts have been passed within a few months. They are significant as marking the inauguration of library work under state auspices in new areas; as enlarging the powers and resources of the central state library office or as committing the state to new and pregnant forms of library enterprise.

Several of these laws are noted in some detail below.

### California

The most notable of 10 library measures enacted at the last session of the California legislature is the county library act, based partly upon the county library methods in operation during the last 10 years in Ohio, Maryland and Oregon, but of much wider scope. It provides for the creation of county library systems by the county supervisors, either on their own initiative or by compulsion on petition of one-fourth of the qualified voters of a county. Any town or city already having a library may, if it so desires, refuse to participate in the county system, in which case its property shall not be taxed for county library purposes, and its inhabitants shall not be entitled to county library privileges; such non-participation may, however, be cancelled at any time, if the city or town so desires. Instead of establishing a separate county library, the county supervisors are authorized to enter into a contract with the board of trustees of the free public library of any city or town, by which that library shall assume the functions of a county library, as provided in this act. In such case, the county will pay annually to the contracting library such a sum as may be agreed on. Such a contract may terminate at any time on six months' notice by either party.

In the case of the establishment of a county library, such library shall be under the general supervision of a committee of three selected annually by the county board of supervisors from among its own

members. This committee elects the county librarian, who serves for a term of four years, subject to prior removal for cause after a hearing; no state residence qualifications are required of the librarian, but no person shall be eligible as county librarian who has not received, prior to election, "from the state librarian or from the librarian of the University of California, or the Leland Stanford, Jr., university, a certificate to the effect that in the opinion of such librarian he is well qualified for the office. If at any time there shall be established by law in this state a system of certification of qualified librarians, each county librarian elected thereafter for a first term must hold a proper certificate provided by such system, in place of the certificate above mentioned. The salary of the county librarian shall be fixed at not less than the salary provided by law for the county superintendent of schools. He shall also be allowed his actual and necessary expenses incurred in traveling on the business of his office."...

The county library systems of the state are placed under the general supervision of the state librarian, who is required, either personally or through assistants, to visit from time to time the libraries in each county and inquire into their condition; expense of such visits are to be defrayed from the state library fund. "The state librarian may annually call a convention of county librarians, to assemble at such time and place as he may deem most convenient, for discussion of questions pertaining to the supervision and administration of the public libraries, and other subjects affecting the welfare and interest of the county libraries. It is hereby made the duty of all county librarians to attend and take part in the proceedings of such convention when it is called." Expenses of such attendance are to be paid from the county library fund...

Library Journal, April, 1909.

The article from which the above account is reprinted contains further particulars of the County library law and notes on the other new California library measures.

### North Carolina

The Library commission of North Carolina with the usual advisory, organizing and assisting duties was established by a bill which passed the General Assembly on March 8. It carries an annual appropriation of \$1500 (in perpetuity it would seem from the wording) and provides for a membership of five; the Superintendent of

public instruction, the State librarian, two other persons to be appointed by the North Carolina library association and one other person to be appointed by the Governor for terms of 3 years.

The Commission "shall employ a secretary, not a member of the Commission, who shall be a person trained in modern library methods".

#### Tennessee

An act providing for the establishment of a Free Library Commission in the state of Tennessee recently passed the legislature. By the provisions of this act the commission will be constituted of three persons appointed by the governor and serving respectively for terms of two, four and six years, besides the state librarian and state superintendent of public instruction. The officers shall consist of a chairman to be elected by the Commission for a term of one year and a secretary, appointed by the Commission, but not from their own number. The secretary shall receive compensation for his services and the Commission will when possible defray traveling expenses of its secretary and members, when these are incurred in commission business. The work of the Commission is planned along the usual lines.

#### Texas

A new law effective March 19th creates the Texas Library and Historical Commission to consist of the Superintendent of public instruction; the head of the School of history of the State university and three persons appointed by the governor. It provides for the election by the Commission of "a state librarian who shall not be of their own number, who shall be an experienced librarian and who shall be secretary of the Commission". An assistant librarian (similarly chosen) shall conduct the legislative reference section.

Besides the usual functions of a state library and library commission the bill provides for the formation and conduct of an historical museum and the classification, indexing and preservation of the manuscript archives of the State. The text of

the law is printed as circular no. 1 by the State library.

This minute and comprehensive statute is a notable instance of a tendency, which is becoming increasingly evident; to combine and unite different forms of state library work under one administrative board or commission.

#### Vermont

The law providing for the State Board of Library Commissioners was reenacted with some very significant changes on Dec. 3, 1908. The most important change was the provision in section 4, permitting the board to aid public libraries with grants of money to the amount of \$1000 each year, in sums not exceeding \$100 to each library. The board will probably make grants averaging about \$25.

Section 2 distinctly authorizes an annual school for library instruction and suggests by a permissive clause the payment of the expense of the local librarian in attendance at this school. Appropriations were increased to \$2000 annually for salaries and general expenses; \$600 annually for the purchase of books for traveling libraries; and \$150 annually for clerical work in preparing such books for circulation; these sums in addition to the \$1000 used in grants to libraries. The law is comprehensive, containing 32 sections dealing with the appointment of the commissioners, their duties, the details governing incorporation of local public libraries, the administration of traveling libraries and the distribution of State documents.

In greater detail, sections 1, 7, 12, 13 and 15-30 are identical with the corresponding sections of the old law. Sections 3, 8, 9 and 10 show slight changes made to secure to cities and incorporated villages the same privileges which towns have previously enjoyed. The substantial changes are embodied in sections 2, 4, 5, 6, 11 and 14. These changes all reflect an increased appreciation of the work which the Board of Library Commissioners has been doing since its organization, as they enlarge its powers and are evidently meant to increase its efficiency and usefulness.